

LAND OF MARVELS.

McGee Calls It the "Country of the Cacti."

Barrel of the Desert, Armed with Natural Fish Hooks—Plant Sacred to the Rain God—Giant of Plant Life.

The country of the cacti—widest of all regions on the earth, so far as its vegetation is concerned—was visited by Prof. W. J. McGee, of the bureau of ethnology, in the course of the expedition from which he has newly returned. He describes it as a land of marvels—a territory where the dominant forms of plant life are uncanny things armed with spikes and natural fish hooks. Some of them are of gigantic size, reaching 50 feet in height, and harboring strange inhabitants, as are the little oaks.

His wanderland, much of which has never been explored, lies to the south of the Gila river, to the east of the Gulf of California, and to the west of the Sierra Madre mountains," said Prof. McGee to a New York Herald correspondent. "It forms a sort of triangle, the northern edge of which is in Arizona, but which is mainly covered by the state of Sonora, in Mexico. For the most part an inhospitable desert, it affords conditions more favorable to the development of cacti than are to be found anywhere else in the world.

"Desert plants are commonly obliged to store up water in one way or another, so as not to perish during the long periods when there is no rainfall. Various species of cacti do this, and in the region I describe the tired and thirsty traveler occasionally comes across a spiky thing, about the size of a beer keg, which is to him a godsend—perhaps even a rescue from death in hideous shape. It is the so-called 'water barrel of the desert,' a species of cactus which is a living spring, containing within itself a considerable supply of the purest water. One has only to chop off the top of it



MONSTER CABBAGE CACTUS. (Sketches in the Country South of the Gila River.)

with a machete, when a mass of pulp is disclosed, somewhat resembling in consistency the pulp of a watermelon. If a bowl-shaped cavity be cut in the top of the pulp mass it will quickly fill with water, which may then be drunk. Or, if preferred, the pulp may be chewed.

"This water barrel cactus, when ripe, has a crown of fruits, the pulp of which is edible and grateful to a thirst that has been aggravated by alkali dust. The plant is the thorniest of all the cacti of the region, being provided with straight spikes and crooked spines that operate like fish-hooks. It is for this reason, indeed, that the water it contains is pure and drinkable.

"Other cacti are protected by chemical ingredients in their juices, which make the latter unpleasant to drink, but this one is furnished with such formidable external and mechanical devices for protection against enemies that it does not find it necessary, as one might say, to poison its fluids.

"In the days of early exploration in the southwest the Cereus giganteus was the first of the great cacti to come under scientific notice. It was considered the most extraordinary product of the vegetable realm. Nevertheless, I have myself seen in the region of which I speak an immense forest of a single kind of cactus, larger than the Cereus giganteus and extending continuously over many square miles, practically to the exclusion of all other forms of plant life. This is the Cereus pinguiculus, known to the native Indians as the 'comb cactus,' because it furnishes them with combs for their hair. It attains a height of 50 feet, and when full grown has a trunk as large as that of the biggest oak tree.

"This cactus bears fruits in bunches resembling in appearance horse chestnuts, and it is the burrs that are used for combs. The branches show many little holes made by woodpeckers, which peck through the outer skin into the pulp and dig out cavities in the latter of a size and shape suitable for their nests. To heal a wound thus inflicted the plant exudes a viscid secretion that hardens into a woody substance, so that in a short time after the nest has been formed in the manner described it surrounds itself with a hard shell, perfectly clean and dry. When the cactus dies its pulp, which is largely composed of water, withers away, leaving behind only a skeleton of slender ribs representing the great branches; but the woody, bony woodpecker nests remain in place and do not decay."

German Soldiers as Swimmers. German army has a swimming pool for troops, where everyone is able to learn to swim. The best swimmers are able to cross a stream of several hundred yards' width, even when carrying their clothing, rifle and ammunition.



It is just as easy to drift into danger as to drive into it. The progress is slower but the end is equally sure. It is the gradual progress of drifting which blinds to the danger. Men and women drift into ill-health in such a way. There is a little feeling of oppression after eating. After a time it passes away. Some day it returns and brings another symptom—headache, perhaps. Something is done to relieve the headache, but nothing to relieve the cause. So one more victim goes drifting on to the rocks of disease. Young women who are teaching or studying are very apt to become victims of disease of the stomach. They eat indigestibly, in some cases, and in general the brain is too occupied to allow the stomach the blood necessary to carry on its functions. Hence in time the organs of digestion and nutrition are totally deranged, and the young graduate goes home a chronic invalid.

The timely use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery will avert such a condition; the faithful use of it in chronic cases will effect a complete cure. I was troubled with very frequent headaches, often accompanied by severe vomiting," writes Miss Mary Belle Summerton, of San Diego, Duval Co., Texas. "Bowels were irregular and my stomach and liver seemed continually out of order. Often I could eat almost nothing, and sometimes absolutely nothing, for twenty-four hours at a time. I was entirely unfit for work, and my whole system seemed so run down that I feared a severe sick spell and was very much discouraged. I was advised to try Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, and before finishing the third bottle I was able to undertake the duties of public school life, and contracted to do so."

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets cleanse the complexion and sweeten the breath.

EDWARD VII.

The Happiest Memory of His American Tour is That of His Visit to the White House.

"During the Prince of Wales' stay in Washington (upon the occasion of his visit to America, in 1860,) he was President Buchanan's guest, and occupied apartments of the Executive Mansion looking over Lafayette Square," writes William Perrine, in the May Ladies' Home Journal. "One evening when an elaborate display of fireworks was given in his honor he stood on the balcony of the White House, together with Mr. Buchanan and Miss Lane, amidst great cheers. When dining with his hosts he would escort Miss Lane to the table seating himself at her right. His manner was somewhat bashful, and most public ceremonies apparently bored him. But while he was with Miss Lane and the coterie of beautiful women of her set it was noted that for the first time since he had been in this country he seemed to show the manner of a gallant young gentleman desirous of pleasing. One of the merriest mornings she had with him was at a gymnasium in Washington attached to a female seminary.

On the brass rings suspended from the ceiling he swung himself one by one across the room, and the whole party laughed heartily at his pranks on the rope ladder. Then he fell to playing tennis. Miss Lane and the Prince together succeeded in conquering Mrs. Thompson and the Duke of Newcastle; it was next the turn of the victors to play against each other, and Harriet who was one of the most robust girls of the day, speedily outbowed the Prince and put his muscle to shame.

Warren County Primary.

Bowling Green, Ky., April 30.—The following are the candidates that received the Democratic nominations for county offices: County Judge—Chas. Drake. County attorney—T. W. Thomas. Sheriff—Rob't Rhodes. County Court Clerk—Virgil Garvin.

Jailer—C. C. Patterson. Assessor—W. C. Hall. Surveyor—J. B. Floyd. Coroner—Dr. J. E. Gray. Representative City—D. W. Wright. Representative County—H. M. Sledge.

THE DERBY.

His Eminence Wins Over the Favorite.

Louisville, Ky., April 30.—The great Kentucky Derby was won yesterday by His Eminence; time, 2:07 1/4. Sannazarro second, Driscoll third. The horses ran before a large crowd. The betting was heavy.

The track is fast and the weather fine. In the ring the odds were as follows: Allard Schack, 6 to 5; His Eminence, 8 to 5; Sannazarro, 2 to 1; Amer, 3 to 1. Driscoll, 5 to 1.

THE HOMING PIGEON.

It is Supposed to Have a Sense of Direction.

For lack of other explanation of the homing pigeon's remarkable power of finding its way to its cote from distant points some scientists have fallen back on the assumption that the bird possesses a special "sense of direction," says the Chicago American.

It has not been proved that the homing pigeon has any special sense organ of this kind, but certain observations point strongly to the existence of the sense itself.

In a case recently reported two pigeons returned from a distance of 223 miles, under very unusual conditions. They had been reared to the age of three years and a half in Paris and had never been exercised. Then they were taken to the Perigord district, where their owner, to make sure of attaching them to their new home, shut them up with other pigeons for a month. His idea was to secure the birds, which were females, through the maternal instinct. At the end of the month, when one of the pigeons had a young brood and the other was setting, both were set at liberty.

The brooding pigeon flew away at once, and the other followed on the death of her offspring. The first arrived in Paris two days after starting; the second took three days to accomplish the journey of 223 miles.

It was a first flight, at the advanced age of three years and a half, after a month of imprisonment. Homing pigeons are usually not sent on such voyages except after long training, with gradual increase in the length of flight.

A case is known, however, in which a young and untrained female was released by mistake and traversed the course of 124 miles in seven hours.

These three examples tend to prove that, in some cases, at least, visual memory and reasoning power have very little to do with the phenomenon.

How could these untrained pigeons, carried so far by rail and shut up for a month, have retained any memory of the road to Paris?

To be sure, it took the birds two or three days to make the trip which a trained pigeon would accomplish in five hours.

NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN

Scientist Surprised at Antiquity of What He Thought a Yankee Invention.

"I am more and more convinced as my years pass along that 'there is nothing new under the sun,'" observed a well-known scientist of Washington to a Star reporter, "though I am also free to admit that it took me many years to get away from the idea that the world was being crammed full of absolutely new things every day. It is remarkable how old many things are that we continually refer to as modern. But my latest discovery, which I made when in Egypt last fall, has done more to convince me that we are not such wonderful beings after all than almost anything else. Just prior to leaving this country I had my residence here modernized to some extent in the way of its plumbing, and incidentally I got into a conversation with one of the plumbers as to the origin of the single-linked chain which is used to hold the plugs for bath tubs and wash basins and flushes. The plumber admitted that he did not know anything about the origin of the chain with its peculiar link, but ventured the opinion that it was the invention of some Yankee, and that he thought, in view of its very extensive use, that there must have been 'barrels of money' in it for the inventor. I knew even less on the subject, but had sense enough to keep my mouth closed. I am now glad I did. On arriving at Cairo I visited the museum there, and the first thing that caught my eye was a gold chain, the manufacture of which was identical with the plumber's chain of to-day. Looking into the subject, I found enough to show that it was not a Yankee invention, but was about the first form of chain ever put in use. The specimen I saw at Cairo was a gold chain which had been worn by some prince or princess 6,000 years ago. Pretty old for a new invention, isn't it?"

Reporting His Own Burglaries.

A professional burglar in Berlin found a new and original way of adding to the ordinary profits of his profession. After each burglary he sent a full account of it to one of the daily newspapers, and for this he received payment in the usual way. But he tried his plan once too often. The editor became suspicious and gave information to the police, who soon found how this amateur reporter was able to beat all rivals in the way of early information.

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CIRCUIT COURT DIRECTORY.

TRIGO.—First Monday in February—term three weeks; Third Monday in May—term two weeks; First Monday in September—term three weeks. VICTORIA.—Fourth Monday in February—term six weeks; First Monday in June—term four weeks; Fourth Monday in September—term six weeks. CALLOWAY.—Second Monday in April—term three weeks; First Monday in August—term two weeks; Second Monday in November—term three weeks. LYON.—First Monday in May—term of three weeks; First Monday in August—term three weeks; First Monday in December—term three weeks.

NEVER KISSED OR HUGGED

A Woman—Prof. Crook Declares He Leads a Model Life.

Prof. Algier R. Crook, the bachelor member of the faculty of North western University, surprised the students during a heart-to-heart talk in the laboratory by saying that the frivolities of the world had not tempted him. "I have never uttered a profane word," said Prof. Crook, "never have smoked or chewed tobacco, drank intoxicants, nor hugged or kissed a woman."

The confession brought blush to the cheeks of the young women in the class, while the young men looked on and wondered.

"That is true," added the professor.

"Well," spoke up a student, "you don't know what you've missed, professor."

Prof. Crook, after a moment's silence, and as if talking to himself, remarked, "Perhaps not."

Prof. Crook is a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University, a co-educational institution. After finishing the course at that university he studied for two years at Munich. He has been at Northwestern since 1893. He is 37 years old and is known as one of the most athletic and erudite men at Evanston institution, and is a favorite at Woman's Hall.—Exchange.

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The L. & N. will sell round trip tickets to Louisville, Ky., at one and one third fare for the round trip, April 28th, to May 11th inclusive limited to May 13th, account Spring meeting New Louisville Jackey club. Also one fare round trip for trains arriving at Louisville forenoon of April 28th, May 6th, and May 11th. Limited two days from days from date of sale, account Derby Day, Clark Stakes, and Oak Stakes.